

Claims

1. A device of use in applying a tactile stimulus, the device comprising a sleeve adapted to accommodate a finger and one or more raised elements on the outer surface of the sleeve, wherein there is at least one raised element or part of a raised element in that region of the sleeve defined by the first 15 % of its overall length measured from its distal end, and wherein the raised element(s) are arranged in a loop surrounding a blank region of the sleeve surface which carries no raised elements.
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2. A device according to claim 1, comprising from six to ten raised elements on the outer sleeve surface.
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3. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the raised elements are arranged on the outer sleeve surface in the shape or approximate shape of an oval.
4. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the raised element(s) are located in that region of the device which in use corresponds to the underside of the wearer's finger tip.
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5. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein there is at least one raised element in that region of the sleeve surface defined by the first 10 % of the overall sleeve length measured from its distal end.
6. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein all of the raised element(s) are located within that region of the underside sleeve surface defined by the first 50 % of the overall sleeve length measured from its distal end.
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7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the raised element(s) take the form of dome-like projections, which are approximately hemispherical at their free ends.

8. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the blank region of the sleeve surface is located so that, in use, it corresponds to the central region of the underside of the wearer's finger tip.
- 5 9. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the arrangement of raised elements comprises two groups each of at least one raised element, the two groups being spaced apart circumferentially around the sleeve surface by the blank region.
- 10 10. A device according to claim 9, wherein each of the two groups of raised elements comprises a row of two or more raised elements running parallel or approximately parallel to the longitudinal sleeve axis.
11. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the raised element(s) at least partly define a fluid retaining region on the outer sleeve surface.
- 15 12. A device according to claim 11, wherein the fluid retaining region takes the form of an open-topped enclosure bound by the raised element(s) and the outer sleeve surface.
13. A device according to claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the sleeve surface in the fluid retaining region is substantially flat.
- 20 14. A device according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the fluid retaining region occupies the entire area within the loop formed by the raised element(s).
- 25 15. A device according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein there are both primary and secondary raised elements on the outer sleeve surface, the secondary raised elements being positioned between primary raised elements but protruding less far above the sleeve surface, the arrangement being such that the primary and secondary elements together define a continuous fluid retaining wall.

16. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one region of the sleeve has a greater flexibility than that of the rest of the sleeve and is able to stretch to allow an increase in the sleeve circumference.
- 5 17. A device according to claim 16, wherein the higher flexibility region is formed from the same material as that of the rest of the sleeve, but with a lower thickness.
18. A device according to claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the higher flexibility region is located, in use, at or near the side of the wearer's finger.
- 10 19. A device according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein the higher flexibility region has an elongate shape and is orientated, in use, substantially in the direction of the wearer's finger.
20. A device according to any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the sleeve has two or more higher flexibility regions spaced radially around the sleeve.
- 15 21. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sleeve has a tearable portion which may be torn away, either partially or completely, from the rest of the sleeve and which is defined at least partly by a region of reduced sleeve strength.
22. A device according to claim 21, wherein the region of reduced sleeve strength is formed by a boundary between two sleeve regions of differing flexibility, thickness and/or strength.
- 20 23. A device according to claim 21 or claim 22, wherein the region of reduced sleeve strength is formed by a region of lower thickness than that of adjacent sleeve regions.
24. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sleeve is provided with a vent to facilitate the release of air from within during fitting.

25. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising one or more fluid cells which contain a substance to be delivered using the device and which are adapted to release the substance during use of the device.
26. A device according to claim 25, wherein the substance to be delivered comprises a lubricant and/or a pharmaceutically active substance.
27. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, which is adapted for a single use and to be disposable after use.
28. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sleeve has sufficient rigidity to retain an approximately finger-shaped structure unsupported, yet can flex with the wearer's finger in use.
29. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sleeve is of a size sufficient to accommodate only the tip of the wearer's finger, being the finger end region bounded by the distal finger joint.
30. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the circumference of the sleeve varies along its length, being greater at the position which corresponds, in use, to the wearer's proximal finger joint and smaller at the distal joint position.
31. A device of use in applying a tactile stimulus, the device comprising a sleeve adapted to accommodate a finger and one or more raised elements on the outer surface of the sleeve, wherein at least one region of the sleeve has a greater flexibility than that of the rest of the sleeve, so as to provide variability in the sleeve circumference.
32. A device of use in applying a tactile stimulus, the device being substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying illustrative drawings.

33. A package containing a device according to any one of the preceding claims, together with a substance to be delivered using it and instructions for using the device to apply the substance to a surface simultaneously with tactile pressure.
- 5 34. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 32, to apply tactile pressure to a surface.
35. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 32, to apply a fluid substance to a surface.
36. Use according to claim 34 or claim 35, wherein the surface comprises living tissue.
- 10 37. A method of treating female orgasmic disorder or a related condition, which method comprises applying a tactile stimulus to the genital area of a patient using a device according to any one of claims 1 to 32, and optionally also applying, using the device, a lubricant and/or an active substance to the stimulated area.
- 15 38. Method or use according to any one of claims 34 to 37, which is substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying illustrative drawings.